to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offencess affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) by amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. This has been done so that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man-power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws.

Safety of local trains in Mumbai

†2703. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local trains running in Mumbai are safe;

(b) if not, whether Government are working on any new plan to make them better and safe; and

(c) if so, what are the plans and by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Doubling of Railway Line in Tamil Nadu

2704. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make single railway line into double railway line in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of single railway lines which have been converted into double railway line during the current financial year?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The following works have been taken up for doubling of single line section/providing multiple lines on double line sections in Tamil Nadu:—

1. Madurai-Dindigul (62.05 kms)
2. Irugur-Coimbatore (17.70 kms)
3. Attipattu-Korukkupet 3rd line (18 kms)
4. Pattabiram-Tiruvallur-4th line (15.06 kms) & Tiruvallur-Arakkonam-3rd line (26.83 kms)
5. Chennai Beach-Korukkupt-3rd line (4.1 kms)
6. Chennai Beach-Attipattu-4th line (22.1 kms)

(d) No work for doubling of single railway lines in Tamil Nadu has been completed during the current financial year.

High Speed Trains

2705. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to high speed trains between Delhi and Chennai and between other major cities of the country, line-wise, so as to reduce the journey time considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount allocated and spent thereon, so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any assistance of Japan and France has been sought in this regard to utilize their expertise in successfully running high speed trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no plan to run High Speed Trains of more than 160